


ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
. FOR THE .  
EPPING UNION  
Rural Sanitary District,  
FOR THE YEAR 1897.



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

### Epping Union Rural Sanitary District

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.. FOR THE YEAR 1897 ..

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you my Annual Report upon the Epping Rural District for the year 1897.

After the important changes which were effected in the area and population of the district by the withdrawal of the Chingford, Buckhurst Hill, and Epping Urban Districts, and the consequent disturbance of the bases upon which the statistics had hitherto been calculated, it is somewhat of a relief to be able to state that no further changes of the kind have taken place during the past year. The area of the district is, therefore, 40,213 acres, with a population (1891 census) of 15,952, the rateable value being £113,053.

### *Inspections.*

These may be summarised as follows, viz.:—

- Jany. Broadley Common—Cottage (dirty) and infection.  
,, Loughton—Oriolet Hospital, situation and sanitary arrangements.  
Feb. North Weald—Cottage over-crowded and insanitary.  
Mar. Nazeing—Cottage, and infection.  
Apl. Great Parndon—Several houses with infection.  
May. Loughton—Cowsheds, pigstyes, etc.  
June. Theydon Bois—Cottage, and infection. Woburn Avenue—Defective drainage.  
Sept. Rye Hill—General inspection *re* deficient water supply.  
Oct. Nazeing—Old cottage (dirty), and infection.  
,, Theydon Bois—Cottage with infection, but without drains.  
,, ,, (Woburn Avenue) do. do.

Oct.	Theydon Bois (The Green)—Open offensive ditch, receiving drainage.
„	Loughton, England's Lane
„	„ High Road
„	„ Smart's Lane
„	„ York Hill
„	„ Baldwyn's Hill
„	North Weald—Cottage with infection, and defective drains.
Nov.	Loughton (Baldwyn's Hill)—Cottage with reported infection.
Dec.	North Weald—Cottages with faulty drainage, and bad water supply.
„	Woodside—Cottage with infection.
„	Nazeing (Lower Gate)—General inspection <i>re</i> deficient water supply.
„	Loughton (Goldings Hill)—Cottage with infection.

### *Sanitary Improvements Effected.*

No important sanitary improvement has taken place during the year. An old brick sewer at Harlow has been taken up, and a new pipe sewer is being laid in its stead. The large pond at Debden Green, which had for years been a source of danger and of continual complaint, has at last been filled up. A number of ditches and water courses have been cleaned out. Two wells have been closed, and three new ones have been dug. Besides these, a number of minor improvements have been effected in the ordinary routine work of the Sanitary Inspector, whose statement follows.

#### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.

Inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	436
Notices to abate or remove nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	250
Letters <i>re</i> nuisances, water supply, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	400
Certificates granted for new houses under Water Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of houses certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
„ new houses connected to public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
„ samples of water submitted to M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ dairies and cowsheds on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
„ „ „ registered during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ persons registered under Infantile Life Protection Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

#### DWELLING HOUSES.

Number of notices to abate over-crowding in cottages and vans	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ to provide new privies and w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ to remove privies and cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ to repair w.c.	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ to repair and make habitable	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ to repair and lime-wash interiors	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ to owners letting new houses without certificates...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Number of dwelling houses made habitable	...	...	...	...	11
„ „ pulled down or closed	...	...	...	...	4

#### UNDER HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT

Number of notices to make dwellings habitable	...	...	...	...	1
„ houses under notice	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ made habitable after notice	...	...	...	...	1

#### DRAINAGE, ETC.

Number of notices to connect house drains with sewers	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ cleanse and drain premises	...	...	...	...	22
„ „ construct cesspools to drains and privies	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ fill up do. do. do.	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ cover over and ventilate cesspools and drains	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ divert drains from ditches	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ disconnect sink pipes from drains	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ empty and cleanse cesspools and tanks, etc.	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ open and cleanse drains	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ provide gully traps to drains	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ remove w.c.'s and pipes from inside dwellings...	...	...	...	...	2

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of infectious cases removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	26
„ dwellings disinfected	...	...	...	...	56
„ printed instructions given to parents and others	...	...	...	...	90
„ notices to disinfect clothing	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ houses and rooms	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ „ public conveyances	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ public schools	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ re employing persons from infected houses	..	...	...	...	2
„ „ to limewash, etc., rooms after infection	...	...	...	...	45
„ „ to isolate cases of infection	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ to schoolmasters, managers, and others	...	...	...	...	11

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Number of notices to provide domestic supply	...	...	...	...	21
„ „ „ w.c. with water flush	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ to cleanse water tanks	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ wells	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ to close do.	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ to protect and cover over wells	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ to repair pumps	...	...	...	...	4

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of notices to bury corpse	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ to cleanse brooks, ditches, and ponds	...	...	...	...	19
„ „ „ piggeries and fowl runs, etc.	...	...	...	...	21
„ „ to discontinue attending as midwife, etc.	...	...	...	...	1

Number of notices to discontinue carting and depositing manure and gas lime	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ pumping sewage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ slaughtering animals in improper places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ discharging smoke and steam	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ to dust contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ to limewash bakehouses, slaughter houses, and piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ „ to protect dangerous places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ to remove ashes, refuse, manure, and gas lime	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ „ gipsy vans and tents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ „ and bury dead animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ „ pigs and other animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ to register cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ under Infantile Life Protection Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ to take water samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ to surveyors, water companies, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

J. H. BELL,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

### *Action Taken to Prevent the Spread of Infection.*

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 74, or less than half the number for the previous year, when they were as many as 154. The notifications for the different diseases were—Scarlet Fever 45, Diphtheria 12, Typhoid Fever 5, Puerperal Fever 3, Erysipelas 9.

In the following tables the notifications for each sub-district and for each month are stated.

#### NOTIFICATIONS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.

			Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.
CHIGWELL, Sub-District	...	...	8	7	3	2	3	23
EPPING, Sub-District	...	...	10	1	1	...	2	14
HARLOW, Sub-District	...	...	27	4	1	1	4	37
TOTAL	...	...	45	12	5	3	9	74



## NOTIFICATIONS IN DIFFERENT MONTHS.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL.
Scarlet Fever ...	3	...	10	6	4	3	2	1	4	7	3	2	45
Diphtheria ...	3	1	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	1	12
Typhoid Fever...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	5
Puerperal Fever	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3
Erysipelas ...	...	...	2	1	1	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	9
TOTAL ...	7	3	12	8	5	6	5	3	5	10	5	5	74

## SCARLET FEVER.

This disease continued to be prevalent throughout the district during the year, and, as is shown by the first of the above tables, the greatest prevalence was in the Harlow district. During January and February isolated cases occurred in Great Parndon, and Netteswell. In March there were isolated cases in Nazeing, Harlow, and Loughton, while at Great Parndon, during this and the two succeeding months, a mild outbreak occurred. During July, August, and September a few isolated cases occurred in different parts of the district. In October infection was imported into Theydon Bois, and during November and December there was a limited outbreak at North Weald. The measures adopted for the prevention of the spread of infection were (a) Removal to Hospital wherever it was possible to do so, and fumigation and disinfection of the houses; (b) Isolation in their own homes, where cases could not be removed; (c) Notices to School Managers to exclude children from infected houses from school; (d) Distribution of printed notices of precautions to be observed; (e) The prevention of London holiday children being sent into the district. Upon the whole, these measures were successful, and it was not necessary in any instance to advise the closing of the schools.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Next to Scarlet Fever, this was the most prevalent infectious disease during the year. The greater number of cases occurred in the Chigwell and Harlow districts, only one, in fact, having been notified in the Epping sub-district. This was the case of a child living in an isolated cottage at Nazeing, who was taken ill in the month of August. Of the seven cases occurring in the Chigwell sub-district, two were at the Uplands Convalescent Home at Loughton, and the remainder, also, occurred in different parts of the parish of Loughton. There were four cases in the Harlow sub-district, two of which occurred in the same house at Hobbs Cross Road, in the month of January; the others also occurred in the parish of Harlow, one in the month of January, and one in June. In every instance the houses were inspected, and precautions were taken; but in only one instance was it found advisable to remove the case to the Isolation Hospital.

## TYPHOID FEVER.

Of the five cases, two occurred in different parts of the Chigwell sub-district, one in Epping sub-district, and two in Harlow. Of the latter, one was imported from Bow, in the month of September. None of these cases were considered suitable for removal, but in each instance the houses were inspected, and precautions were taken to prevent the disease spreading. There were no deaths from this cause, of persons belonging to the district during the year.

## AS REGARDS OTHER ZYMOTIC DISEASES,

The district has been remarkably free during the year, and although Measles and Whooping Cough appear to have been prevalent in the adjoining districts, Epping Rural District has almost entirely escaped them. Several cases of Erysipelas have been notified, but as a rule it has not been possible to identify these with local or insanitary conditions; and as there is not the same need for, nor the same difficulty in isolating these cases, it seems of but little use to keep this disease upon the Schedule of the infectious diseases required to be notified under the Act, and I think your Council might very well omit it in future.



## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

In the following table particulars are given of the cases treated in the Isolation Hospital during the year. In all, there were 65 cases, which is the largest number received in any year since the Hospital was first opened in 1883. Of the 65 cases, 29 were males and 36 were females. The numbers from the different diseases were: Scarlet Fever 53, Diphtheria 4, Typhoid Fever 8. The numbers from the different districts were: Epping Rural 26, Epping Urban 31, Chingford 2, Buckhurst Hill 6.

No.	Date of admission.		Sex.	Age.	Residence.	Nature of disease.	Result.	
1	Jan.	6	Male	11 yrs.	Epping (Urban)	Ty'd. Fever	Disch'd	Feb. 20
2	"	"	"	9 "	"	"	"	" 15
3	"	7	"	23 "	"	"	"	" 27
4	"	"	"	16 "	"	"	Died	Jan. 26
5	"	12	"	7 "	Nazeing	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	Feb. 20
6	"	15	Female	7 "	Epping (Urban)	Ty'd. Fever	"	" 15
7	Feb.	20	"	5 "	Buckhurst Hill	Scarlet Fever	"	April 12
8	March	2	"	5 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	" 17
9	"	5	"	10 "	Buckhurst Hill	"	"	" 21
10	"	"	Male	9 "	Nazeing	"	"	" 10
11	"	25	"	5½ "	Chingford	Diphtheria	Died	Mar. 27
12	"	31	Female	4 "	Nazeing	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	May 12
13	April	7	Male	7 "	Great Parndon	"	"	" "
14	"	"	Female	7 "	"	"	"	" "
15	"	"	Male	5 "	"	"	"	" "
16	"	10	Female	8 "	"	"	"	" 15
17	"	"	Male	3 "	"	"	"	" "
18	"	"	"	5 "	"	"	"	" 6
19	"	"	"	7 "	"	"	"	" "
20	"	"	Female	8 "	"	"	"	" "
21	"	16	"	1½ "	"	"	"	June 1
22	"	20	"	9 "	"	"	"	" 2
23	May	2	Male	4 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	" 14
24	"	"	Female	3 "	"	"	"	" "
25	"	5	"	6 "	Great Parndon	"	"	" 19
26	"	7	"	12 "	Buckhurst Hill	"	"	" 21
27	"	9	"	17 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	" "
28	"	10	"	4 "	"	"	"	" 21
29	"	24	"	12 "	Great Parndon	"	"	July 8
30	June	2	"	8 "	Sheering	"	"	" 15
31	"	"	"	5 "	"	"	"	" "
32	"	6	Male	28 "	Epping (Urban)	Ty'd. Fever	Died	June 27
33	"	26	"	15 "	Chigwell	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	Aug. 7
34	"	29	"	17 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	" 10
35	"	"	Female	14 "	"	"	"	" 5
36	"	"	"	7 "	"	"	"	July 24
37	"	"	"	6 "	"	"	"	" "
38	"	"	"	3 "	"	"	"	" 31

No.	Date of admission		Sex.	Age.	Residence.	Nature of disease.	Result.	
39	July	9	Female	6 yrs.	Epping (Urban)	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	Aug. 16
40	"	"	Male	4 "	"	{ and mem- branous croup }	Died	July 13
41	"	12	Female	3 "	"	Scarlet Fever	Disch'd	Aug. 20
42	"	17	"	11 "	"	"	"	Sept. 4
43	Aug.	7	"	21 "	Buckhurst Hill	Ty'd. Fever	"	" 9
44	"	17	Male	11 "	Epping (Urban)	Scarlet Fever	"	" 29
45	"	21	Female	12 "	Nazeing	Diphtheria	"	" 7
46	"	26	"	18 "	Epping (Urban)	Scarlet Fever	"	Oct. 8
47	"	31	"	29 "	Buckhurst Hill	Diphtheria	"	Sept. 7
48	Sept.	2	"	6 "	Epping (Urban)	Scarlet Fever	"	Oct. 13
49	"	5	Male	20 "	"	"	"	" 15
50	"	"	"	"	Buckhurst Hill	Ty'd. Fever	"	" 8
51	"	8	"	25 "	Harlow	Scarlet Fever	"	" 15
52	"	21	"	8 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	Nov. 5
53	"	24	"	9 "	Great Parndon	"	"	" 9
54	Oct.	5	"	14 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	" 16
55	"	12	"	11 "	"	"	"	" 5
56	"	"	"	5 "	"	"	"	" "
57	"	"	Female	8 "	"	"	"	" 16
58	"	22	Male	15 "	"	Diphtheria	"	" 26
59	"	"	"	21 "	Theydon Bois	Scarlet Fever	"	Dec. 4
60	"	28	Female	8 "	North Weald	"	"	" 9
61	Nov.	1	"	11 "	"	"	"	" 15
62	"	8	"	17 "	"	"	"	" 28
63	"	18	Male	8 "	Epping (Urban)	"	"	Jan. 8. '98
64	Dec.	9	Female	27 "	Chingford	"	"	" 20 "
65	"	14	"	8 "	North Weald	"	"	" 28 "

By an agreement between your Council and the Urban Councils of Epping, Chingford, and Buckhurst Hill, cases of infectious diseases from these districts are at present being received into your Hospital. This arrangement has not been considered satisfactory by the Essex County Council, and on the 29th of January an inquiry under section 6 of the Isolation Hospitals Act was made by Dr. Thresh, County Medical Officer of Health. At various meetings of the different Councils concerned, the matter has since been freely discussed, and plans for altering and improving the present Hospital, and suggestions for providing a new Hospital for the use of the three Urban Districts, have been made, but nothing has yet been definitely decided upon. One thing, however, has been made apparent, namely, that even should the present Hospital be retained for the exclusive use of the Epping Rural District, it must be considerably altered and improved. Better provision

must be made for warming it, the methods of ventilation must be improved, additional wards must be provided to allow different infectious diseases to be isolated separately, better accommodation must be provided for the nurses, better drainage arrangements will be required, and a steam disinfecter should also be added. In my Annual Report for the year 1894 the total cost of maintenance for the twelve years since the Hospital was opened, shows the mean cost per patient to have been £16 4s. 4d.

					£	s.	d.
During the year 1895	there were	32	patients	at a total cost of	424	0	3
„	1896	„	63	„	541	10	8
„	1897	„	65	„	594	17	2

For these three years the mean cost per patient has only been £9 15s., and taking the whole 15 years (1883-1897) the figures work out to a mean cost of £12 7s. 5d. per patient. It will be seen that the greater the number of patients, the less is the average cost, but upon the whole it cannot be said that the Hospital is more than ordinarily expensive, and in any case the removal of infectious cases to an Isolation Hospital must be an infinitely less costly way of dealing with them than allowing them to remain to be treated in their own over-crowded and badly ventilated homes, with the usual consequence that epidemics thus run rampant throughout the district, as has been illustrated by some painful object lessons during the year 1897.

### *Cause and Distribution of Disease.*

Of 193 deaths occurring in the district (which is the number after excluding those in public institutions), there were 57 of children under 5 years of age, of which number 20 were due either to Bronchitis or Pneumonia, 3 were due to Whooping Cough, 4 to Diarrhœa, and the remainder were due chiefly to such causes as Marasmus (wasting) or Congenital Debility. That so large a proportion of deaths of young children should occur in a healthy rural district is a matter for serious consideration, and looking at the causes to which they are assigned, there would appear to be a sad want of care upon the part of the parents, or those who have charge of these children, that so many should die

from diseases of a more or less preventable nature. In saying this, however, it should be borne in mind that many of the houses in which the poor live in this district are so bad, that the utmost care will not always suffice to protect them from illness of a serious nature, or to prevent a fatal issue when they are attacked.

### *Sanitary Requirements of the District.*

Drainage is still wanted for Woburn Avenue and other parts of Theydon Bois referred to in my last year's Report. For certain parts of Chigwell, for Potter Street, Harlow, and for the village of Sheering something in the way of public sewerage is also required.

Water is still badly wanted at Rye Hill, and at Nazeing. In the latter parish there appear to be numerous springs which might be made available for public use. At the present time the only water to be had by most of the residents is obtained from ponds or ditches, which, it is needless to say, is very unfit for drinking purposes.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The population to the middle of the year is estimated at 16,758.

#### BIRTHS.

The Births registered were 421, which gives a birth-rate of 25.1 per 1,000

#### DEATHS.

The Deaths, omitting those in public institutions, and including those occurring outside the district of persons belonging thereto, were 211, giving a total death-rate of 12.5 per 1,000.

#### INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 43 deaths of infants under one year of age, which gives a death-rate measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, equal to 102.1 per 1,000.

#### ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

Twelve deaths were due to these diseases, viz.: Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 2, Membranous Croup 1, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 3,



Diarrhœa 3, Erysipelas 1. The death-rate from these diseases was equal to 0.71 per 1,000.

Appended to this Report are the usual Tables, A and B, classifying the deaths and new cases of sickness in the district during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**TREVOR FOWLER,**

L.R.C.P.I., D.P.H., Camb., etc.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TO THE EPPING UNION

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*Epping, February 17th, 1898.*







